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# From Hours on Line to Minutes Online, UD Opens 'Home Shopping Network'

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Feb. 24, 2000  
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## NEWS RELEASE

### FROM HOURS ON LINE TO MINUTES ONLINE, UD OPENS 'HOME SHOPPING NETWORK'

DAYTON, Ohio — Instead of spending hours in a campus gym waiting for their turn to claim a choice University-owned house, apartment or suite for the fall, University of Dayton upperclassmen will instead be spending three to four minutes at their computers to accomplish the same task.

UD's housing lottery is going online. It's a true home shopping network, with hundreds of houses, apartments and residence hall rooms up for grabs.

The procedure calls for student groups to sign on to the lottery Web site (<http://housing.udayton.edu/>) using a specific PIN number and check the list of properties to see which of their picks are still available. When their assigned three- or four-minute window of opportunity begins on the official lottery clock, also located on the Web site, they can make and submit their choice. They will receive an instant confirmation.

The lottery is slated for Sunday, Feb. 27, beginning at 8 a.m.

One of those waiting to make his pick at 12:44 p.m. for his four-man group will be Jeff Shafer, the 20-year-old sophomore from Bowling Green, Ohio, who designed and executed the online service as an internship. His group is 73<sup>rd</sup> in the 170-group junior pool, and they're angling for one of the brand-new Lawnview Apartments.

The computer engineering major, who also serves on campus as a Webmentor to help faculty and staff build computer and Internet skills, said he liked the independence of working on the online lottery project. "You get some real-life experience in working with a department with real needs," Shafer said. "In the classroom, all the requirements fit conveniently within the scope of the project. The lottery system has exceptions that weren't easy to process."

For example, seniors get first dibs on the few single rooms available in Marycrest Residence Hall, which is basically a sophomore facility.

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